

The Mosquito has been around now for over 35 years and for all that time its performance has been shown to be consistently good for a 4.9 metre catamaran, often beating much newer designs around the course. The Mosquito is a restricted class rather than a strict one design, which has allowed the class to take advantage of developments in hull shape and sail design over the years. This continued development and the light hull weight combine to make the current Mosquitoes very efficient and competitive over a very wide range of conditions.



The Mosquito can be sailed cat (single-handed) or sloop rigged (with crew) on the same VYC handicap of 84. When raced with the spinnaker the current VYC is 80.

The class is currently strongest in Victoria, South Australia and South Africa. In Victoria there has been strong growth in the class over the last few seasons with Mosquitoes now regularly outnumbering most other classes at open regattas.



The South African fleet have been very active with the development of the spinnaker over the last two seasons and is now the sole representative for the F16 class in that part of the world.

One of the big attractions of the Mosquito is the price. A brand new set of carbon or Kevlar composite hulls cost between \$4500 and \$6000. This combined with the low cost mast and beam sections supplied by the Association means a complete new boat with Mylar sails can be on the water for less than \$13,000 (see over for builder information). Alternatively a competitive second-hand boat (up to 8 years old) can be obtained for under \$7,000. The standard Mosquito delivers price-for-performance but when you add the spinnaker and equipment, for just \$1200 more, there is no competition.

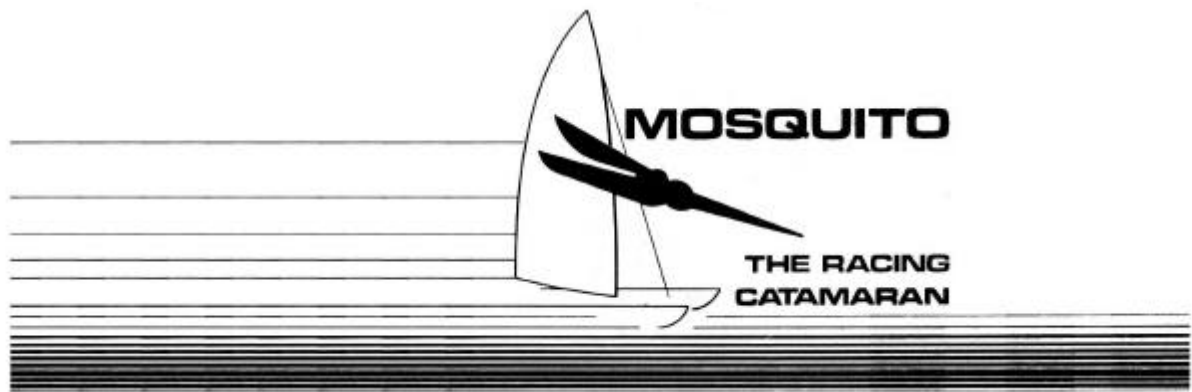
VYC handicap	84
VYC handicap with spinnaker	80
Cost on the water, new	\$12-13,000

Platform and rigging

Hull length	4.9m (16ft)
Beam	2.185m
Weight (platform)	55kg
Weight (sailing)	90kg
Mast height	7.36m

Sails

Sail	Area m ²	Area ft ²
Main	12.76	136.4
Jib	3.34	35.99
Spinnaker	14.2	152.7



Builders

Mosquitoes can be home built from plywood but for most people a foam-sandwich boat is the preferred option. Foam Mosquitoes are typically built using carbon reinforced glass but other combinations are permitted including complete Kevlar and carbon hulls. New Mosquitoes can now be purchased ready-to-sail from the Cobden/Warren-Smith team.

Builder	Contact number	Options
Cobden/Warren-Smith	03 5444 1154 or 03 9898 6107	Complete boat ready-to-sail, or any preferred combination of platform rigging and hulls.
Chris Trewern	03 9741 7413	Hulls only - Part built or complete.

The hull shapes produced by these builders vary slightly, with the biggest differences above the waterline. The Trewern hulls have striking angular deck lines and slightly more buoyancy whereas the Cobden/Warren-Smith hulls have a more regular rounded appearance. Both hull shapes have been proven on the race course, with both dominating championships over recent years.

The South Australians are the main proponents of plywood boats, and they produce competitive, down-to-weight plywood boats from their garages. For those with the time and inclination this is a rewarding and cost-saving way to obtain new hulls.

There are state Mosquito associations in Victoria and South Australia and national associations in Australia and South Africa. The Australian associations have been running state and national championships continuously since 1972 and are suppliers for mast sections (only \$280), beam sections, tuning manuals, and assorted Mosquito clothing. Recent years have seen an ever increasing attendance at the Traveler's Series which runs throughout the season in Victoria.

For comprehensive information concerning all aspects of Mosquito sailing go to the VMCA web site at home.vicnet.net.au/~mosquito

Spinnakers

The spinnaker has been under development on Mosquitoes for the previous 4 seasons. Whilst it is not yet used at State and National Titles, the spinnaker rig is being seen in action at more and more open events. Complete rigging details are provided on the VMCA web site.



Associations

Victoria - VMCA	Contact name	Andrew Neeson
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South Australia - MCASA	Contact name	Phil Flaherty
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National - NMCC	Contact name	Mick Floyd
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